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Attorney Docket: 225/49922
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: RALF HESS ET AL. Confirmation No.: 6173
Serial No.: 09/853,901 Group Art Unit: 2837
Filed: MAY 14, 2001 Examiner: (To Be Assigned)
Title: ACTUATING ARRANGEMENT FOR OPENING AND CLOSING
HINGED MOTOR VEHICLE PANELS

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This supplements the Information Disclosure Statement submitted in the above-identified application on May 14, 2001.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

An English abstract of German Patent No. 297 05 362 U1 is submitted herewith.


The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. Furthermore, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of

this Information Disclosure Statement and therefore no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 5, 2003



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| FORM PTO-4 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent & Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | Attorney Docket No. 225/49922 | Serial No. 09/853,901 |
| | Applicant: RALF HESS ET AL. | |
| | Filing Date May 14, 2001 | Group 2837 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------|------|------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Examiner Initial | | Document Number | Date | Name | Classification | Filing Date (if appropriate) |
| | AA | | | | | |
| | AB | | | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------|------------|---------|----------------|-------------|----|
| Examiner Initial | | Document Number | Date | Country | Classification | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | AK | 297 05 362 U1 | 07/17/1997 | Germany | | Abstract | |
| | AL | | | | | | |
| | AM | | | | | | |
| | AN | | | | | | |
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| | AP | | | | | | |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.) | | |
|--|----|---|
| | AQ | German Office Action dated October 6, 2003. |
| | AR | |
| | AS | |

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.